(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in the matter; and

(c) what precautionary steps Government propose to take to meet the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All developments having a bearing on India's security are kept under constant review by the Government and all necessary measures taken to safeguard it.

Achievements of Indian Space Research Organisation

954. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:
SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what have been the achievements of the Indian Space Research Organisation during the last five years; and

(b) what plans are under way, specially, in the launching of satellites, being implemented by ISRO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) A Statement is attached. [*See* Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 40].

Crash of IAF MIG-27 near Meerut

955. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an IAF MIG-27 aircraft crashed recently near Meerut;

(b) if so, what was the number of persons killed as a result of the crash and what is the estimated loss suffered by Government; and

(c) what is the result of the inquiry conducted by Government into the crash and what action has been taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ten persons were killed. The pilot was able to eject, but the aircraft was destroyed. A Court of Inquiry has been instituted, to assess the causes of the accident and extent of loss. Suitable action thereon will be considered after the Inquiry Report has been received.

Revised School textbooks for Class I to XII

956. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has recently completed a massive exercise of revision of text books as per the National core curriculum spelt out in the New Education Policy (NPE) of 1986; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) by when the revised books would be applicable and available in the schools; and

(c) to what extent the burden of books on students would be brought down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF